

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,226,618 to Downs et al. ("Downs").

Claim 6

Claim 6, as amended, clarifies that the metadata steganographically embedded in the media signal includes the metadata digest. Downs refers to a record that includes a digest for a metadata secure container BOM, which stands for Bill of Materials. This record includes a digest for the metadata secure container bill of materials. This record is not steganographically embedded in the media signal as claimed. Thus, Downs does not anticipate claim 6.

Withdrawn claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 7 is rewritten in independent form with no change in claim scope. The claims should now be condition for allowance.


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Respectfully submitted,

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